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O 191246Z DEC 08  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3987  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 000846

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [SW](#)

SUBJECT: SWEDISH PARLIAMENT APPROVED TROOP INCREASE IN AFGHANISTAN

Refs: A. STOCKHOLM 771

[1](#)B. STOCKHOLM 770

[1](#)C. STOCKHOLM 824

On December 18, the Swedish parliament approved the government's bill to extend and expand Sweden's military contributions to ISAF (refs A-C). The vote was 257 for, 37 against, and 55 abstaining. The parliament approved increasing active troops from 366 to approximately 500, and raising the number of troops available for deployment from 600 to 855 through the end of December 2009, with the precondition that the UN mandate continues. MP Urban Ahlin, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, introduced an associated bill requiring a new parliamentary vote if the decision is made to base more than 500 troops in Afghanistan at the same time; this too passed. The Left Party and the Green Party opposed both bills.

SILVERMAN